

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HALIFA 00304 141724Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20  
/077 W

-----055838 151318Z /75

R 141700Z JUN 78  
FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2209  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0304

E O 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, CA  
SUBJECT: PEI THRONE SPEECH: BRIEF AND LOW KEY  
REF: HALIFAX 0204 AND 0122

1. PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR GORDON L BENNETT OPENED THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 54TH PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY ON JUNE 6, 1978 WITH AN EXTREMELY BRIEF SPEECH FROM THE THRONE. SPEECH, LESS THAN ONE PRINTED PAGE, PRESENTED NO NEW PROGRAMS OR POLICIES.
2. PEI S LAST THRONE SPEECH WAS GIVEN ON MARCH2. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET ON MARCH 28 AND ANNOUNCEMENT THE SAME DAY OF A PROVINCIAL GENERAL ELECTION FOR APRIL 24. NO MAJOR LEGISLATION WAS PASSED DURING THE MARCH SESSION.
3. PREMIER CAMPBELL S LIBERAL GOVT BARELY SURVIVED THE APRIL 24 ELECTION, WINNING ONLY 17 SEATS IN THE 32 SEAT ASSEMBLY. REMAINING 15 SEATS WERE WON BY THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES. STANDINGS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION WERE: L - 24; PC - 8. WITH LIBERALS NAMING RUSSELL PERRY AS SPEAKER, NEW GOVT HOLDS MAJORITY OF

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ONLY ONE SEAT (16 TO 15).

4. NEW GOVT IS EXPECTED TO FOLLOW PROGRAMS AND POLICIES OUTLINED IN MARCH 2 THRONE SPEECH (REPORTED IN HALIFAX 0122) AND BUDGET PRESENTED MARCH 28 (REPORTED IN HALIFAX 0161) WITH ONLY SLIGHT MODIFICATIONS. PREMIER CAMPBELL, SPEAKING DURING THRONE SPEECH DEBATE, SAID

HIS GOVT INTENDS TO STRESS JOB CREATION, WITH A GOAL OF 2,000 NEW MANUFACTURING JOBS BY 1982, RESOURCE INDUSTRIES, ENERGY, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, AND IMPROVEMENTS IN GENERAL GOVERNMENT. HE SAID ONE OF HIS FIRST BILLS WILL BE TO "CLARIFY AND DEMYSTIFY" GOVT REGULATIONS.

5. JUNE 7 EDITORIAL IN THE CHARLOTTETOWN "GUARDIAN" COMMENTED ON NEW LOW-KEY STYLE OF CAMPBELL'S GOVT:

"YESTERDAY'S THRONE SPEECH WAS A BARE-BONES EFFORT. THERE WERE NO OUTLANDISH PROMISES, NO LENGTHY LIST OF PAST, PRESENT AND INTENDED ACCOMPLISHMENTS."

"THERE WAS LITTLE AMMUNITION IN THAT SPEECH FOR THE OPPOSITION - UNLESS IT WAS BREVITY - AND WITH SUCH A SLIM MAJORITY IN SEATS, GOVERNMENT CAN BE EXPECTED TO PLAY IT CLOSE TO THE VEST ALL THE WAY THROUGH THE SESSION".

6. BUDGET SPEECH IS SCHEDULED FOR PRESENTATION ON JUNE 15.

7. COPIES OF THRONE SPEECH ARE BEING POUCHED TO UNCLASSIFIED

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EUR/CAN AND EMBASSY OTTAWA.  
AYLING

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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